

MRS. LILLIE CALLS ON RICH JEWS TO STOP BLOODSHED OF GARMENT STRIKE

BY CARL SANDBURG

"Come with me and hear the Jews scream. I have heard them scream.

"Come and see their blood staining the pavement. I have seen Jewish blood.

"Two strikers have been killed; how many more do you want killed?"

This is the heart-cry of Frances Crane Lillie in an open letter to the Jews of Chicago. The letter takes two inches of newspaper column space. It was sent yesterday afternoon to the editors of all seven of the big daily newspapers of Chicago. It was printed in pink and green extras of afternoon newspapers. No morning paper touched a line of it.

Mother of four children of her own, foster-mother of three adopted children, this woman, Frances Crane Lillie, wanted to reach the soul of Chicago. It's a mother's cry she sends out.

Eleven weeks she has gone out almost every day on the picket lines in front of garment shops where police and sluggers have beaten men, boys, girls and women and where 1,800 arrests have resulted in no convictions and no indictments to date, with the police failing of proof in every jury trial of strikers.

Owner of a million dollars, gifted with health and good looks, Mrs. Lillie has the open door to all the gayeties of the social crush.

But instead of rushing to red dresses and red slippers for the Spanish ball next week, she writes to newspapers about red blood of Jews spattering the sidewalks of Chicago.

Instead of sitting easy and quiet with her books and music out at her beautiful country home, she goes onto the street at a Kuppenheimer clothing shop and raises the outcry:

"I call on everybody to witness that the private police of Chicago can beat up strikers while the city police look on and take no action."

About one-fourth of the strikers are Jews. Nearly all of the garment shops where strike is on are owned by Jews. Louis and Jonas Kuppenheimer, Morris Rosenwald, Alfred Decker and other names widely advertised in the clothing trade are among Jews whom Mrs. Lillie holds in part responsible for conditions that have caused the strike. Payrolls of these and other Jews are the basis for figures in U. S. labor bureau bulletin 91 and the Illinois bureau of labor statistics:

"In men's ready-made clothing industry in Chicago in 70 large establishments 29.5 per cent of the women earn less than \$5 a week, 42 per cent earn less than \$6, 53.3 per cent earn less than \$7 a week."

Sixty per cent of the strikers are women and girls. They want a union, collective bargaining, a chance for redress against decisions of foremen and examiners who pass on their work. The Jews who own the big garment shops won't arbitrate nor meet committees from strikers or citizens. Such is the background from which Mrs. Lillie yesterday sent this open letter:

"Never again call Americans together to protest against the Russian government and its persecution of the Jews. Jews of Chicago are persecuting their poor and defenseless co-religionists now. And why? Because the strikers are fighting for what they conceive to be liberty.

"Come with me and hear the Jews scream. I have heard them scream. Come and see their blood staining the pavement. I have seen Jewish blood."

"Two strikers have been killed; how many more do you want killed?"

"Come and see those whom the employers have succeeded in terrorizing, and come and see those whom they have not succeeded in terrorizing—Jewish boys and girls, young, brave, defenseless!